

## CLAIMS

1. A communication device which performs communication with an other party in a communication network and which has a first function to hold the communication by transmitting a first request signal to the other party and a second function to hold the communication by transmitting a second request signal to the other party and by receiving a response signal, said communication device comprising:

detection means for detecting whether the response signal is received within a predetermined time after the second request signal is transmitted; and

hold control means, in dependence upon the detecting by said detection means, for generating the first request signal and transmitting the generated first request signal to the other party.

2. In a communication network including a first communication device, a second communication device and a transit device which relays communication between the first and second communication devices, the first communication device having a first function to hold the communication by transmitting a first request signal to the second communication device and a second function to hold the communication by transmitting a second request signal to the second communication device and by receiving a response signal, said transit device comprising:

detection means for detecting whether the response signal is received within a predetermined time after the second request signal is relayed; and

hold control means, in dependence upon the detecting by said detection means, for generating the first request signal and transmitting the generated first request signal to the second

communication device and for generating the response signal and transmitting the generated response signal to the first communication device.

3. The communication device according to claim 1, wherein the first request signal is accompanied by a signal indicating a hold condition.

4. The transit device according to claim 2, wherein the first request signal is accompanied by a signal indicating a hold condition.

5. The communication device or transit device ~~according to~~ claim 1 ~~or 2~~ respectively,

wherein the first request, second request and response signals are FACILITY[holdNotific.inv], FACILITY[remoteHold.inv] and FACILITY[remoteHold.rr] messages respectively, of the ITU-T Recommendation H.225.0 Q.931.

6. A communication-holding method for a communication device which performs communication with an other party in a communication network, the communication device having a first function to hold the communication by transmitting a first request signal to the other party and a second function to hold the communication by transmitting a second request signal to the other party and receiving a response signal, said method comprising the steps of:

detecting whether the response signal is received within a predetermined time after the second request signal is transmitted; and transmitting the first request signal to the other party in

dependence upon said detecting.

7. A communication-holding method for a transit device which relays communication between first and second communication devices in a communication network, the first communication device having a first function to hold the communication by transmitting a first request signal to the second communication device and a second function to hold the communication by transmitting a second request signal to the second communication device and receiving a response signal from the second communication device, said method comprising the steps of:

detecting whether the response signal is received within a predetermined time after the second request signal is relayed; and

in dependence upon said detecting, for transmitting the first request signal to the second communication device and for generating the response signal and transmitting the generated response signal to the first communication device.